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C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for billing for [telephone] services provided by a caller originating a call, said method comprising:

receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a service provided by a caller from an origin device;

authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device;
and

responsive to receiving an acceptance of said call by said callee from a destination device, billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for a cost of said service and crediting said cost to a caller account to complete said billed transaction when said service provided by said caller is complete, such that said origin device is enabled to initiate said billed transaction charged to said callee for said service provided by said caller to said callee during said call.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, further comprising:

only prompting said caller to provide said service [completing said billed transaction] if said callee is one of a plurality of callees authorized to accept said billed transaction for said service.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to receiving said request to originate said billed transaction at a switch within a trusted telephone network providing a telephone service connection for said call, establishing a secure communication channel between a billing service provider outside said trusted telephone network and said trusted telephone network, wherein said billing service provider controls authenticating said identity of said callee answering said call, prompting said callee to accept said call with said service, accessing said account by said authenticated identity of said callee, and controlling billing said account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for said cost of said service and crediting said cost to said caller account to complete said billed transaction.

~~only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for telephone [services] according to claim 1, further comprising:

prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge for said cost indicated in said billed transaction; and

only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

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5. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a service provided by a caller from an origin device further comprises [comprising]:

receiving said request in which said caller specifies said cost for said service and a type of said service.

~~responsive to completing said billed transaction, providing a service to said callee via said call.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, further comprising:

authenticating an identity of said caller utilizing said origin device; and

providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

authenticating [an] said identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a dialed digit request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a voice directed request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

accessing a profile for said caller; and

receiving a profile specified request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 1, further comprising:

prompting [a] said caller at said origin device to select [an] said caller account for crediting a cost [an amount] of said billed transaction.

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13. (Currently Amended) A system for billing for [telephone] services provided by a caller originating a call, said system comprising:

a billing controller communicatively connected to a telephone network;

means for receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a service provided by a caller at said billing controller from an origin device;

means for authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device; and

means responsive to receiving an acceptance of said call by said callee from a destination device, for billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for a cost of said service and crediting said cost to a caller account to complete said billed transaction initiated by said origin device when said service provided by said caller is complete.

14. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for only prompting said caller to provide said service [completing said billed transaction] if said callee is one of a plurality of callees authorized to accept said billed transaction for said service.

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15. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means, responsive to receiving said request to originate said billed transaction at a switch within a trusted telephone network providing a telephone service connection for said call, for establishing a secure communication channel between a billing service provider outside said trusted telephone network and said trusted telephone network, wherein said billing service provider controls authenticating said identity of said callee answering said call, prompting said callee to accept said call with said service, accessing said account by said authenticated identity of said callee, and controlling billing said account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for said cost of said service and crediting said cost to said caller account to complete said billed transaction.

~~only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge for said cost indicated in said billed transaction; and

means for only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

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17. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, said means for receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a service provided by a caller from an origin device further comprises [comprising]:

means for receiving said request in which said caller specifies said cost for said service and a type of said service.

~~means responsive to completing said billed transaction, for providing a service to said callee via said call.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for authenticating an identity of said caller utilizing said origin device; and

means for providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

19. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, wherein said means for authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

means for authenticating [an] said identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

20. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a dialed digit request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

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21. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a voice directed request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

22. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller.

23. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for accessing a profile for said caller; and

means for receiving a profile specified request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

24. (Currently Amended) The system for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for prompting [a] said caller at said origin device to select [an] said caller account for crediting a cost [an amount] of said billed transaction.

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25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for billing for [telephone] services provided by a caller originating a call, said computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for enabling receipt of a request to originate a billed transaction for a service provided by a caller from an origin device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for a cost of said service and crediting said cost to a caller account to complete said billed transaction initiated by said origin device when said service provided by said caller is complete.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only prompting said caller to provide said service [completing said billed transaction] if said callee is one of a plurality of callees authorized to accept said billed transaction for said service.

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27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, responsive to receiving said request to originate said billed transaction at a switch within a trusted telephone network providing a telephone service connection for said call, for establishing a secure communication channel between a billing service provider outside said trusted telephone network and said trusted telephone network, wherein said billing service provider controls authenticating said identity of said callee answering said call, prompting said callee to accept said call with said service, accessing said account by said authenticated identity of said callee, and controlling billing said account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee for said cost of said service and crediting said cost to said caller account to complete said billed transaction.

~~only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge for said cost indicated in said billed transaction; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

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29. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving said request in which said caller specifies said cost for said service and a type of said service.

~~means, recorded on said recording medium, responsive to completing said billed-transaction, for providing a service to said callee via said call.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of said caller utilizing said origin device; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating [an] said identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

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32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a dialed digit request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a voice directed request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller.

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35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for accessing a profile for said caller; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a profile specified request to originate [a] said billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product for billing for [telephone] services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for prompting [a] said caller at said origin device to select [an] said caller account for crediting a cost [an amount] of said billed transaction.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a billed transaction, comprising:
transferring a call to a destination device with a billed transaction request initiated by a caller placing said call to said destination device, wherein said billed transaction request is for a callee answering said call at said destination device to pay said caller for a service provided by said caller during said call;

authenticating an identity of [a] said callee answering said call at said destination device;
and

executing said billed transaction according to a billing plan for said authenticated callee identity.

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38. (Original) The method for controlling a billed transaction according to claim 37, further comprising:

only executing said billed transaction responsive to an authorization by said callee.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling callee billing, comprising:

receiving a call at a destination device with a billed transaction request initiated by a caller placing said call, wherein said billed transaction request is for a callee answering said call at said destination device to pay said caller for a service provided by said caller during said call;
and

responsive to an acceptance of said billed transaction request by a callee answering said call at said destination device, transferring an authorization to charge a billing plan accessed according to an authenticated identity of said callee.

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